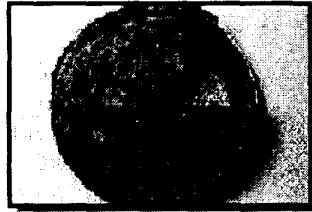


Fruitland, Maryland

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Economic Development



Fast Facts

Population	
1990	3511
1995	3700

Fruitland has been designated as the fastest-growing area of Wicomico County.

Labor Force Statistics	
Workers	43,910
Labor strikes over the past five years:	0

Wages	
Skilled Workers	\$7.50 - \$8.50
Semi-Skilled Workers	\$5.15 - \$6.50
Unskilled Workers	\$5.15-\$5.50
Clerical Workers	\$5.15 - \$6.00

Income - Households	
Income	Households
\$0 - \$9,999	13.6%
\$10,000 - \$19,999	19.1%
\$20,000 - \$34,999	28.1%
\$35,000 - \$49,999	20.1%
\$50,000 & Over	18.4%

City Tax Exemptions	
City Tax	\$1.26/\$100 assessed *
County Tax	\$2.15/\$100 assessed *
State Tax	\$2.10/\$100 assessed *
Tax Exemptions	35% exemption of assessed value of inventory (includes personal property inventory tax)

Retail Tax	5%
------------	----

Local Government: General Info

Police Department (24-hour community policing program)	11 employees
--	--------------

City Streets	98% paved 99% lighted
--------------	--------------------------

Trash Collection	1 time per week special requests usually accommodated
------------------	--

Water Service Charge	\$24.50/quarter
----------------------	-----------------

Sewer Service Charge	\$26.50/qtr
----------------------	-------------

Auto Rental Companies	8
-----------------------	---

Taxi Companies	14
----------------	----

Conrail	Freight only
---------	--------------

Salisbury-Ocean City Regional Airport	2nd largest in Maryland
---------------------------------------	-------------------------

Charter Service	Bayland Aviation
-----------------	------------------

Trucking Companies	60
--------------------	----

Daily Local Newspaper	1
-----------------------	---

Weekly Newspaper	1
------------------	---

FM Radio Stations	13 (2 public radio)
-------------------	---------------------

AM Radio Stations	3
-------------------	---

Television Stations	3 (1 public television)
---------------------	-------------------------

Cable Channels	61
----------------	----

Service organizations & clubs	All major groups
-------------------------------	------------------

Recreation (within 1 hour drive)	Ocean City Assateague National Seashore Assateague State Park Ward Wildfowl Museum Salisbury Zoo Fruitland Recreational Park Fruitland Little League Fruitland Girl's Softball Janes Island State Park Pocomoke River State Park Shad Landing State Park Blackwater Wildlife Refuge Pemberton Historical Park
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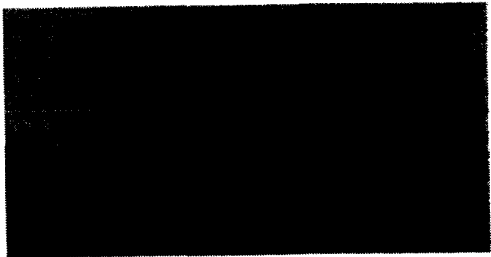
Retail Sales

Retail Market Area	332,000
--------------------	---------

Total Retail Sales: 1993	\$581,006,120
--------------------------	---------------

% Increase from 1989	11.83%
----------------------	--------

Hospitals (751 beds)	Peninsula Regional
----------------------	--------------------



Medical Center
Deer's Head Center
Chesapeake Rehabilitation

Nursing Homes (610 beds)	3
Doctors	200+
Dentists	62

Fruitland Economic Development Commission

PO Drawer F
Fruitland, MD 21826-0120
410/548-2800
410/548-2808 *fax*
E-mail: **Rick Pollitt, City Manager**

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Economic Development



Economic Development Commission Mission Statement

The purpose of the **Fruitland Economic Development Commission (FEDC)** is to provide for the enhancement of Fruitland's economic base by supporting existing commercial and industrial enterprises and attracting desirable new commercial and industrial development, promoting jobs and economic opportunities for the Fruitland community, in a manner compatible with the planning concepts by the City of Fruitland and the FEDC.

To accomplish this mission, FEDC should take the following steps:

- Work to establish communication and linkage with other economic development professionals in the area
- Develop an inventory detailing land and buildings available
- Gather appropriate information regarding sources of grant funds for various projects
- Gather information regarding development efforts in other communities so as to adopt successful strategies for use in Fruitland
- Work to streamline bureaucratic procedures in securing new business and industry and in the pursuit of grants or other governmental incentive programs
- Communicate with the local business community to attract additional financial support
- Develop a plan detailing the type of development needed, with the appropriate mix of commercial and industrial types
- Investigate the feasibility of locating an industrial park in Fruitland

Develop a strategy for implementing the plans

- Develop a strategy for implementing the plans developed as a result of steps 7 and 8
- Develop promotional materials for use in attracting new business
- Any other tasks which are appropriate to achieve the purpose of the FEDC.

Fruitland Economic Development Commission

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Government

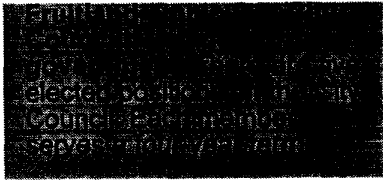


Small is beautiful and Fruitland is no exception. Because of our size we maintain a very accessible and responsive government. You'll find no layers of bureaucracy. Customer service is our hallmark. We *encourage* citizens to participate in all phases of government and work hard to make it easy for them to do so.

The City Council and City employees treat citizens like customers. We're here to provide a service and we aim for satisfaction to the highest degree. If our customers are happy, the city grows and prospers. Accordingly, we pride ourselves on our ability to cut red tape. Need a building permit? No problem. Most permits are issued within the same day once the information is in hand. Need board approvals? We'll schedule a meeting to meet your needs and send the project through with a thorough but time-conscious review. Hit a snag? We'll work it out. Our philosophy is that government is here to help.

Fruitland is Progressive

Fruitland takes the lead in two vitally important areas of environmental quality. In 1996 a well head protection plan was established to preserve the quality of the groundwater in the area of the City's production wells and treatment plant. The Maryland Rural Water Association recently recognized the City for its dramatic efforts at eliminating potential hazards and making the public aware of the importance of safe drinking water. Around town, one can spot the distinctive blue signs advising they have entered a safe drinking water area.



water area.

Fruitland is also on the map for its pilot project involving wastewater treatment over a field of algae. Learning of a new process of treatment invented by a scientist from the Smithsonian Institution, the Maryland Department of the Environment invited the City to serve as a demonstration area for the first application of the process on the East Coast. Similar projects have proven successful in California and Texas, however, this sunlight-dependent process has never been tried in the East. As Fruitland expands and upgrades its wastewater treatment plant this new technology, if successful, will cut millions of dollars off the cost. Savings will be passed on to the residents and developers moving to Fruitland.

Fruitland is Full-Service

The citizens of Fruitland enjoy a wide variety of municipal services including water and sewer, weekly garbage collections and well lit neighborhoods. Twenty-four-hour police protection keeps our crime rate low using local community policing programs, bicycle patrols, and Neighborhood Watch assistance. Street maintenance, snow removal, mosquito spraying and regular non-household trash pickup are also provided.

Fruitland Economic Development Commission

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City of Fruitland

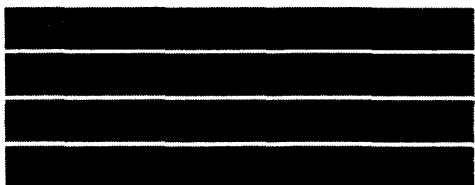
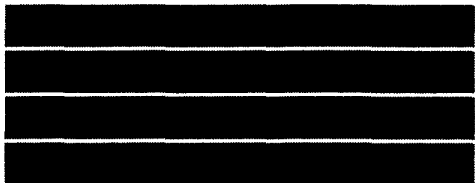
Department Heads

Department	Phone Number
Richard M. Pollitt, Jr., City Manager	410-548-2809
Andrew C. Mitchell, Jr., City Solicitor	410-546-9993
Amy B. Caton, Deputy Treasurer	410-548-2802
Paul R. Jackson, Chief of Police	410-548-2804
Joseph P. Derbyshire, Director of Utilities	410-548-2805
P. Cooper Townsend, Director of Public Works	410-548-2807

Fruitland, Maryland

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Education



Fruitland has schools that even the largest, wealthiest metropolitan areas would envy because they are **small, safe and effective**. Fruitland Primary and Fruitland Intermediate are within the city limits. Students continue at high schools in Wicomico County which are minutes away.

All classrooms have computers and are further enhanced by a computer lab so students are computer literate when they reach high school. This initiative is designed to make Fruitland students *as technologically advanced as possible as early as possible*. In the next year the schools will connect to the Internet, building upon an already strong technological base.



Accelerated programs are offered for **all** grades and academic excellence is a primary goal of this small, industrious community. Staff are aided in attaining this lofty goal through extremely strong parental and community support. The community understands and accepts its responsibility and is rewarded with highly-regarded schools and a low teacher turnover.

Upon graduation from the Fruitland schools, students continue at one of the three Wicomico County High Schools. They offer challenging academic programs along with practical, hands-on technical courses including computer networking and data processing. Wicomico County High Schools are also Connected for Learning, part of a Maryland initiative for bringing internet connectivity and the latest computer technology to all Maryland K-12 public schools.

Many Fruitland students pursue higher education and have excellent choices nearby: two University of Maryland campuses, **Salisbury State University** and the **University of Maryland Eastern Shore** as well as **Wor-Wic Community College**. All are within a five to twenty minute drive.

Salisbury State University has 30 undergraduate and 7 graduate degrees including **Business Administration, Accounting, Management Information Systems and Mathematics**. SSU is currently developing an Engineering degree program which will further develop the technical workforce of the Eastern Shore.

The University of Maryland Eastern Shore offers 22 undergraduate, eight master's and two doctoral degrees. Areas of study include **Computer Science, Toxicology, Engineering Technology, Business Administration and Construction Management Technology**.

Wor-Wic Community College offers AA degrees in a variety of disciplines including **Computer Technology, Electronic Engineering Technology, Accounting and Business Management**. The College has created a unique partnership with local businesses to develop an Advanced Technology Center. Local business and industry leaders offer advice about education and job skills needed in the community. Courses are designed to ensure a perfect fit for students and employers.

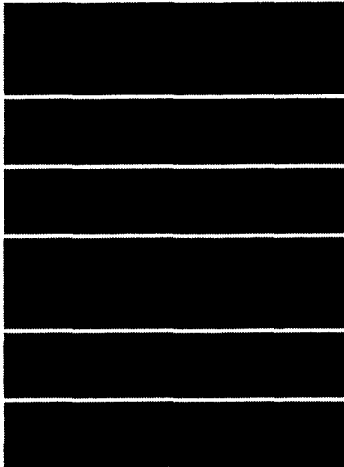
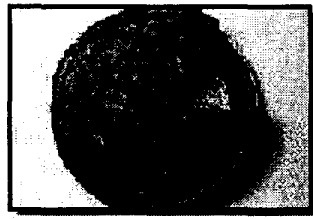
Fruitland Economic Development Commission

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Economic Development



As a Fruitland business you'll enjoy a bigger piece of the pie. We maintain one of the lowest property tax rates of all full-service Lower Shore municipalities at \$1.26 per assessable \$100 value. We have no special school taxes, fire district taxes or sewer district taxes.

Tax Incentives

Companies operating in Fruitland are eligible for a 35% exemption of assessed value of inventory (including personal property inventory). An enterprise zone also offers special incentives to companies starting out or relocating here. Companies may receive:

- an income tax credit of \$500 for each employee;
- \$1500 for each economically disadvantage employee;
- property tax credit of 80% on increase in assessment for 5 years, decreasing to 70% in the sixth year, etc.

Industrial Park

Fruitland is developing a 91-acre industrial park which will have direct access to a rail line and US Route 13. The park is 6 miles from

Salisbury-Ocean City

Regional Airport and 3

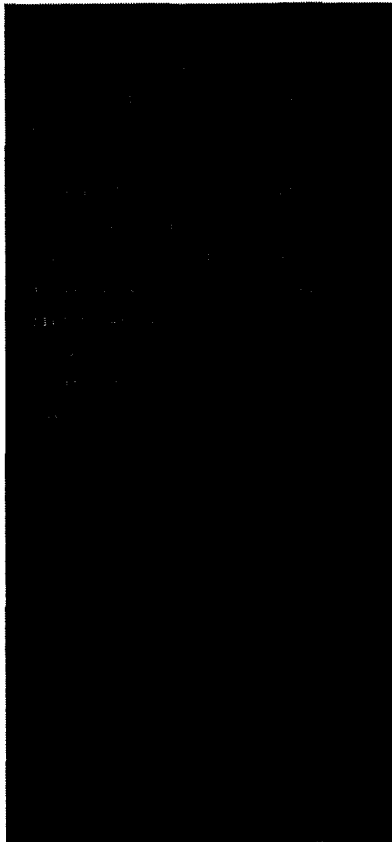
miles from the Port of Salisbury. This park's proximity to rail, road, air and water transportation will give you easy overnight access to 1/3 of the country's population.



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Workforce



Fruitland has a young work force. Fifty percent of citizens are aged 18-54. The unemployment rate in adjoining counties is as high as 11% providing a large labor pool that is just minutes away.

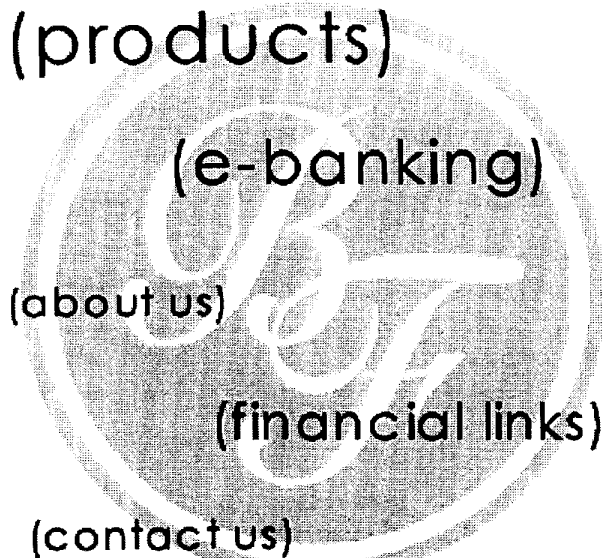
With two University of Maryland campuses and a community college within a twenty minute drive, employees in Fruitland and the larger Wicomico County area have several training and education options. The local schools are working with business and industry to develop courses that will help students meet present and future employment needs.

This solid educational foundation and strong work ethic ensures motivated and trainable workers. Area employers are impressed by the intelligence and commitment of their employees.

Wicomico County has a labor market of 43,910. The prevailing wage for **skilled labor** is \$7.50 to \$8.50 per hour and \$5.15 to \$6.50 for **semi-skilled**.

Fruitland Economic Development Commission

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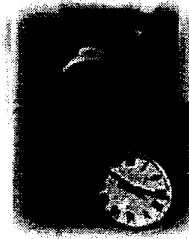


Welcome to The Bank of Fruitland Online!

One of our primary goals is to maintain and enhance our public image as a sound, high quality, friendly place to conduct personal, progressive banking. Our corporate reputation and high level of public

confidence are extremely important to us and we demand everyone associated with our organization to do everything possible to protect the bank's heritage, image of integrity, and perception of friendliness and understanding.

The Bank of Fruitland has become the primary community bank for over 15,000 individuals and businesses located in Wicomico, Somerset, and Worcester Counties, and it is very important that we remain so.



Look up your favorite stocks...

Enter Ticker Symbol	or Company Name
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

Powered By Stockpoint



[legal info](#) - [site credits](#)

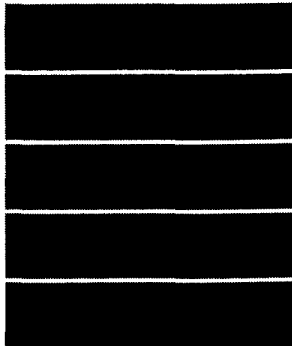
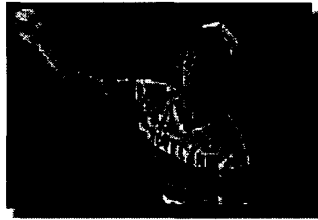
www.bankfruitland.com

109 East Main Street Fruitland, Maryland 21826 - 410.749.1222 bof@bankfruitland.com

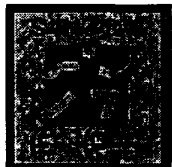
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Community



Community Initiatives



Youth Exercise Services

A small and vibrant community, Fruitland was originally called Disharoon's Crossroads and later Forktown. But the strawberries, blackberries, huckleberries, teaberries and tomatoes shipped by railroad car were so important to the local economy they gave Fruitland its current name.

This very active community of 3,900 reaps the rewards of good schools, a low crime rate and a very high quality of life. Fruitland's proximity to Salisbury gives us the best of both worlds, ready access to a wide variety of services along with gracious small-town living.

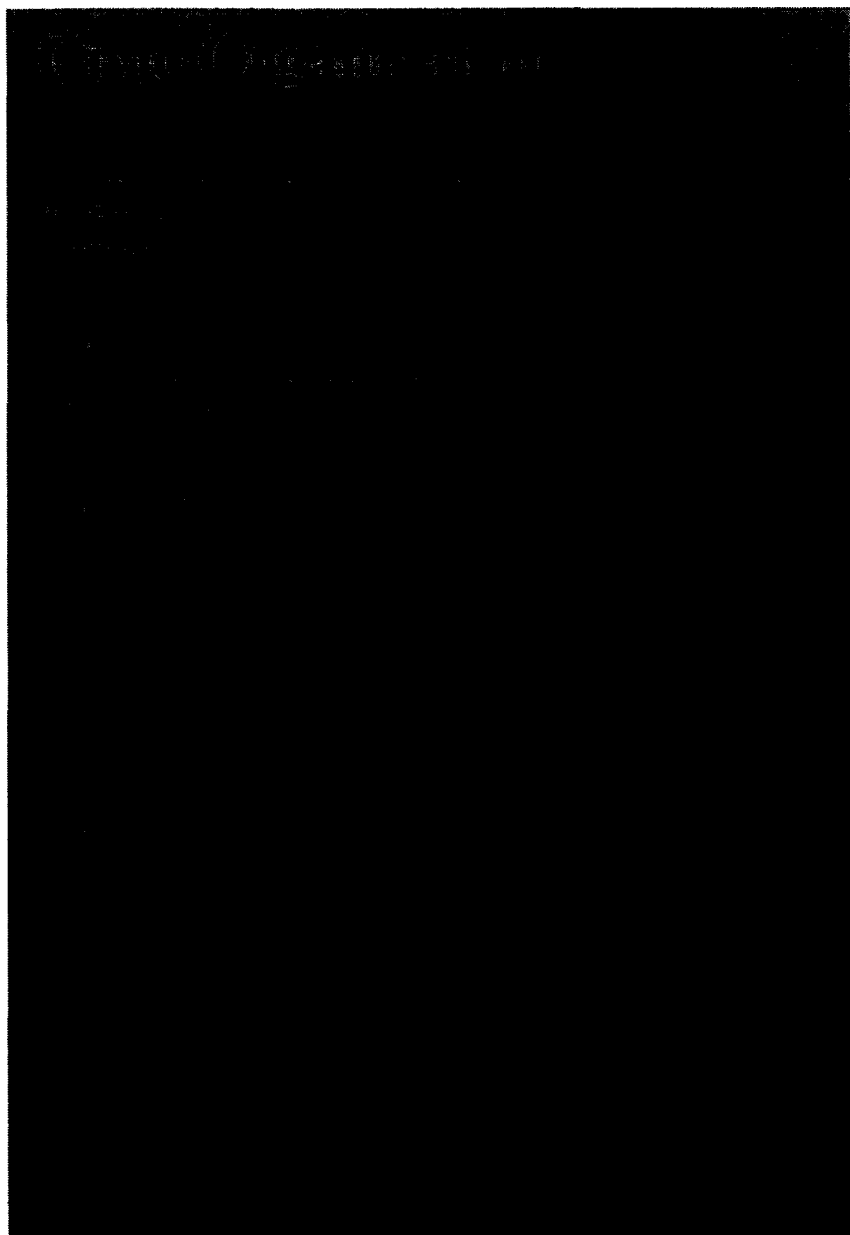
We want you to know that Fruitland is a great place to live and work. Please take a look around and contact us if we can answer any questions.

Fruitland Economic Development Commission

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410/548-2800
410/548-2808 *fax*

E-mail: [Rick Pollitt, City Manager](#)

Fruitland, Maryland



Fruitland Economic Development Commission

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Fruitland, Maryland



History

Our community traces its origins to about 1795 when a village began to cluster around an intersection known as Disharoon's Cross Roads. One of the roads was the dividing line between Somerset and Worcester Counties, making the village politically fragmented until 1867, when Wicomico County was formed from portions of the two counties.

About 1820, the village became known as Forktown, because it was located at the fork of two roads which were used by stage coaches traveling north and south. The stage coach route originated in Accomac, Virginia and continued to Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. The stage coaches would stop at Forktown, change horses and continue on their way.

Fruitland City Hall is now at the site of this historic location. When the railroad arrived at the conclusion of the Civil War more development shifted to the area of the railroad. In 1873, the name of the town was changed to Fruitland because of the large number of fruits growing and being harvested in the area.

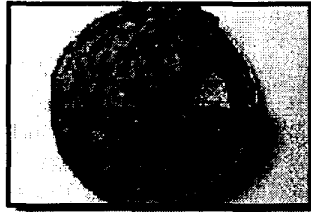
Fruitland was not incorporated until 1947 when the population began to expand rapidly because of its closeness to Salisbury.

The holly tree is native to the moist woods of Somerset, Worcester, Wicomico and Dorchester Counties. Fruitland held the first (and largest) holly auction every year for three days in December, from the late 1890s until December 1968. The demand for homemade wreaths decreased as artificial wreaths were manufactured. Besides holly, mistletoe was also sold by the bushel basket at the auctions. Wreaths were sold and shipped to brokers in Baltimore, Philadelphia and Washington, DC, but sometimes were shipped as far west as Chicago.

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Economic Development



Chamber of Commerce

Chamber of Commerce
The Chamber of Commerce is a non-profit organization that promotes economic development and business growth in the community. It provides a variety of services to its members, including advocacy, networking, and business development. The Chamber also organizes events and programs to support the local economy and improve the quality of life for residents.

Membership
The Chamber of Commerce offers a variety of membership options to suit the needs of different businesses and organizations. Members can enjoy a range of benefits, including access to exclusive events, networking opportunities, and advocacy services. Membership is open to businesses, organizations, and individuals who are interested in supporting the local economy.

Events
The Chamber of Commerce organizes a variety of events and programs throughout the year. These include networking events, business development seminars, and community events. The Chamber also organizes events to support local businesses and organizations, such as fundraisers and charity events.

Advocacy
The Chamber of Commerce advocates for the interests of its members and the community. It works to influence public policy and government decisions that affect the local economy. The Chamber also provides a platform for businesses and organizations to voice their concerns and suggestions to government officials.

Business Development
The Chamber of Commerce provides a variety of services to help businesses grow and succeed. These include business development seminars, networking opportunities, and advocacy services. The Chamber also provides a platform for businesses to showcase their products and services to the community.

Community
The Chamber of Commerce is committed to improving the quality of life for residents in the community. It organizes a variety of events and programs to support the local economy and improve the quality of life for residents. The Chamber also works to address community issues and promote positive change in the community.

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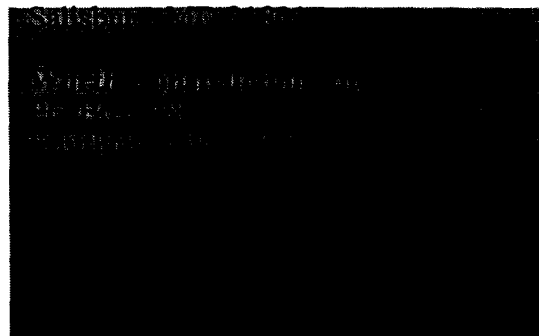
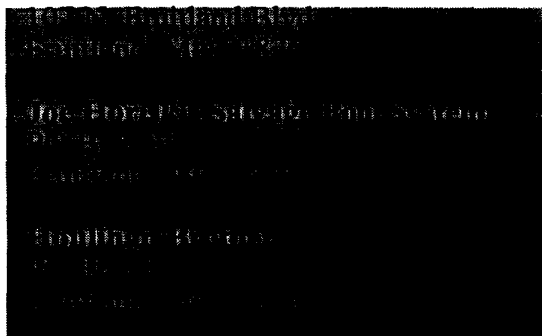
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Fruitland Economic Development Commission

PO Drawer F
Fruitland, MD 21826-0120
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E-mail: **Rick Pollitt, City Manager**

ATTACHMENT 3

FRUITLAND ANNUAL NEWSLETTER

Fruitland, Maryland

"A Shore Pick"

July 1999

General Info

This is your annual City newsletter which provides information on a wide range of subjects of interest to residents and property owners in Fruitland. Please read the material carefully and then keep to refer to often.

Fruitland City Hall is located at 401 East Main Street, at the corner of Division Street. Regular business hours are 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. Our mailing address is Post Office Box F, Fruitland, MD 21826. The general phone number is 410-548-2800 and our e-mail address is "fruitlnd@sea-east.com". Faxes may be sent to 410-548-2808.

Fruitland employs a City Council-Manager form of government. There are five elected positions on the City Council, each member serving a four-year term. City elections are held the first Monday in October in even years. The next regular election will be held on October 2, 2000. The seats of Council President Theodore Lokey and Treasurer Gloria J. Ortiz will be up for grabs. Voter registration is open daily at City Hall during regular business hours or you may register to vote through the mail by contacting the Wicomico County Board of Elections office at 410-548-4830 for a voter registration form. Information on filing to run for the City Council is now available at City Hall or by calling the City Manager.

The City Council meets the second Tuesday of every month at City Hall, beginning at 7:30 p.m. Active participation at public meetings helps assure alert, responsive City government.

Who's Who At City Hall

CITY COUNCIL: (410-548-2800)
Theodore O. Lokey, President
Gloria J. Ortiz, Treasurer
Leslie M. Williams
J.R. Rains
John D. Clohessy

CITY MANAGER:

Richard M. Pollitt, Jr. (410-548-2809)

DEPUTY TREASURER:

Amy B. Caton (410-548-2802)

CHIEF OF POLICE:

Paul R. Jackson (410-548-2804)

DIRECTOR OF UTILITIES:

Joseph P. Derbyshire (410-548-2805)

DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS:

P. Cooper Townsend (410-548-2807)

CITY SOLICITOR:

Andrew C. Mitchell, Jr. (410-546-9993)

Boards and Commissions

The success of any local government hinges on the dedication and support of civic-minded community volunteers. The following list represents the various groups which are currently at work to help make Fruitland the special place we call home. Space prohibits us from listing all of the members except for the chairperson. For further information about any of these groups, contact City Hall.

PLANNING COMMISSION (5 members)

Meets 1st Tuesday - J.R. Rains, Chairman

BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS (6 members)

Meets 3rd Tuesday - Keith Dashield, Chairman

BOARD OF ELECTIONS SUPERVISORS

(3 members) meets as needed

Michelle Buck, Chairperson

RECREATION COMMISSION (11 members)

Meets 4th Tuesday - Ernie Tubbs, Chairman

ETHICS COMMISSION (3 members)

Meets as needed - Hugh Livingston, Chairman

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

(9 members) Meets monthly

Lennart Elmlund, Chairman

Open Meetings

All of the City's boards and commissions, including the City Council, comply with the State Open Meetings Act. All meetings are open to the public unless voted in public session to close the meeting for specified cause. Meeting notices are posted in the lobby of City Hall at least 24 hours prior to a special meeting. Regular meeting dates are listed above.

House Numbering

The existing house numbering system is recognized by the County's 911 system. You are required by City ordinance to display your assigned numbers on your house or business. Failure to do so makes it extremely difficult for emergency personnel to locate you, not to mention the risk of your being fined. If you have any questions regarding your assigned number please contact City Hall immediately.

Some Eligible For Tax Credit

Some homeowners may be eligible for a real estate tax credit based on your gross family income. Form HTC-60 should be completed and filed by September 1, 1999 at the State Assessment Office in the State office building at 201 Baptist Street in Salisbury or phone 410-543-6623. City, county and state taxes are included in eligible credits.

Fruitland Police Department

Our police department is located in the City Hall and currently employs a chief, ten officers and a communications officer. The department is involved in all aspects of law enforcement, including traffic and criminal investigations, child abuse cases, and drug and crime prevention programs including the D.A.R.E. program which is taught each year in Fruitland Intermediate School by a member of the department. If involved in an emergency, call "911". Otherwise, you may contact the local police department at 410-548-2803 (during normal business hours) or 410-548-2804.

Neighborhood Watch

Any residents interested in participating in the "Neighborhood Watch" program or "Operation ID" should contact the police department. Your bicycles may also be registered through the department.

Narcotics Task Force

The City is an active participant in the Wicomico County Narcotics Task Force. If you know of or suspect any illegal drug or criminal activity in your neighborhood, please contact the police department. Your identity will be protected. Only by you and

your neighbors making a conscious effort to remove the drug culture from those areas where it exists can our police department most effectively use the tools at their disposal to achieve this goal.

Public Drinking Prohibited

Possession of an open container and/or consumption of any alcoholic beverage on any public property is prohibited by City ordinance. Violators will be arrested and prosecuted as provided by law.

Noise Ordinance

The City's Noise Ordinance prohibits loud noises and music between the hours of 11:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m. Loud noise is prohibited anytime on public streets and walkways. Complaints should be referred to the Fruitland Police Department *at the time the noise is occurring.*

Animal Control

Animal complaints should be directed to the Wicomico County Humane Society at 410-749-7603. The City does not enforce animal control laws. Protect your family from rabies by having your pets inoculated by a veterinarian. Report all suspected cases of rabies to the Fruitland Police Department or the Wicomico County Humane Society.

Open Burning Prohibited

Open fires are permitted only by obtaining a permit through the Wicomico County Health Department, located at 103 East Main Street (410-546-4446) in Salisbury. The Fruitland Police Department will report any unauthorized open fires to the State Health Department for enforcement of the state law.

Water and Sewer Rates

For using up to the minimum 10,000 gallons of water per quarter, rates for water service are \$33.00 with \$1.25 per 1,000 gallons over the minimum. Sewer service rates are \$30.50 per quarter for the minimum 10,000 gallons with \$1.25 per 1,000 gallons overage. Fruitland's water and sewer rates are competitive with Lower Shore towns of our size. Any questions regarding water usage should be directed to City Hall *within 30 days of the bill date* so that an immediate meter check can be made.

There will be a \$20.00 administrative charge for any property scheduled for water disconnection (after the payment deadline) but not actually disconnected. For those properties whose water service is disconnected at any time, re-connection fees will be \$20.00 during regular business hours and \$40.00 after regular business hours, weekends and holidays.

Sewer and water service costs can best be controlled by careful use of water and periodic checks for leaks. Many times high water consumption is the result of dripping faucets or malfunctioning toilets.

Missing or damaged sewer clean-out caps should be replaced immediately. Debris falling into an uncovered clean-out may clog the line leading to the dwelling.

Owners and occupants of structures should be aware of the location of their water turn-off valves in case of emergencies. If a representative of the City has to respond to any location to turn off the water valve in the meter box, a service fee is charged to the owner. Please be aware that *it is unlawful for anyone other than City personnel to open the water meter boxes*.

Meter boxes must be kept accessible to City personnel. Please keep all brush, shrubs, trees, etc., away from the meter boxes and do not place fences between your meter box and the street.

Water Usage for Irrigation

Residents using large amounts of water for irrigation should investigate the installation of a well. City water used for lawn sprinkling, gardening, etc., is billed for sewer service, even though the water

does not enter into the sanitary sewer system. Increased irrigation use may force the City to increase water treatment plant capacity with additional costs for a high drinking water quality which is not necessary for irrigation.

Well Head Protection

Last year, the City initiated a wellhead protection program. Blue and white road signs have been erected informing "You are now entering a drinking water protection area." Adverse land uses within a half-mile radius of our water wells have the potential to impact our drinking water supply. Residents should call City Hall if they notice any activities in this designated area that they may feel could impact our water, such as chemical or petroleum spills.

The City's efforts at protecting the integrity of our groundwater supply was noted as we were named "The Municipal Groundwater System of the Year" by the Maryland Rural Water Association for 1998. Citizens can be proud of the leadership we are displaying across the state in this very important area of environmental health.

Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade

We reported in recent Newsletters how the City's sewage treatment plant was basically at its designed capacity for treating wastewater. We described a pilot project using algae fields as a filter to act as one part of the treatment process, a concept which should save substantial amounts of money when a new plant is constructed.

To make a very long story short, the project was a flop. The 14-month-long test of the process designed by a scientist at the Smithsonian and paid for with state and developer funds never achieved the level of treatment necessary to meet our needs.

One thing we know is that this year will see our first substantive steps toward designing and building a new multi-million-dollar treatment plant. While we are expecting to receive grants for part of the work, the City will be obligated to raise a great deal of money in order to stay in the water and sewer business. Prior to any decision which will affect your user rates and fees, public hearings will be held to

bring all of our citizens into the process.

If the City wants to progress and even if we want to continue to provide the basic services we enjoy now, we must be able to accommodate new growth. It will be expensive just to meet new state and federal environmental standards. The issues are complex and the decisions to be made will be significant. We will need all of our citizens working together to provide the best road to the future for the citizens of Fruitland.

Garbage Collection

Fruitland's Sanitation Department collects household garbage once weekly. Up to five containers of trash (no larger than 35-gallon capacity) should be placed at the curb line by 6:30 a.m. on your designated day for pickup. Because of a tipping fee imposed by Wicomico County (for use of their landfill) we have instituted a quarterly fee of \$25.50 for residences and \$76.50 for businesses to assist in paying this charge to the county. The fee is included on your quarterly water and sewer bill. Separate bills are sent to those with no utility charges. Do not place trash out for pickup more than 12 hours ahead of time. The City will not be responsible for littering or other damages where trash is placed sooner than 12 hours of pickup. Collection is normally made on holidays when the landfill is open. Any changes in trash collection will be advertised and posted or you may contact City Hall for details just before a holiday.

Snow Removal

During the winter months, snow removal on all streets and salting of major streets and intersections are conducted when necessary. Property owners are required by law to keep their sidewalks free of snow and ice. Please do your part to make your neighborhood safe and yourself clear of a lawsuit.

Mosquito Spraying

The City's mosquito spraying is conducted as needed during the summer months. General property upkeep, i.e., keeping the grass cut, cleaning gutters, removing trash, etc., can reduce mosquito breeding

areas. This service is funded by the City through a matching grant with the State of Maryland. Due to a change in State-supplied chemicals, you may elect to refuse spraying of your property. Please call City Hall at 410-548-2800 if you **do not** want mosquito spray.

Street Lights

If you observe an inoperable street light, whether out at night or on during the day, you may notify City Hall with the location of the pole or, for quicker response, report it to Conectiv with the location and numbers on the pole.

Recycling Drop-Off Center

Wicomico County maintains a recycling center on the property owned by the Fruitland Volunteer Fire Company next to City Hall on East Main Street. A wide variety of recyclable items may be taken there. By utilizing the recycling station you will serve yourself and your community in two ways. One, you will help reduce the cost of garbage collection by the City since less trash will be picked up by our truck. Two, and most important, you will be making a tremendous contribution to cleaning up the environment by reducing the amount of trash that ends up in the county landfill. Let's all work together to make recycling work in Fruitland and Wicomico County!

Code Enforcement

In 1989, the City passed a State-mandated Housing and Livability Code which established minimum requirements for all dwellings whether owner-occupied or leased. Any renters having problems which may affect their safety should contact our code enforcement officer, Wallace Foxwell, through City Hall.

Building Permits

As required by State law, Fruitland last year adopted the BOCA building code and revised our requirements and fees for building permits. While most activities of significant new construction or upgrade of structures still require building permits, other routine repair and maintenance activities are

now exempt. For information regarding permits and inspections, you may contact City Hall.

Recreation

Fruitland's recreation program is managed by an eleven-member recreation commission, which meets on the fourth Tuesday of every month, except in July and August, to plan for and provide a wide variety of sports and leisurely activities.

Fruitland currently supports a 21-acre recreational park fronting on South Brown Street and South Division Street. Baseball, softball, soccer and horseshoe facilities are available as well as a playground for the kids, a covered picnic pavilion and paved walkways. Future plans for the park include tennis courts, a multi-purpose court and a community building. The City has received grants and private donations totaling over \$300,000 for the development of fifteen acres across from the main entrance on South Brown Street for additional baseball, softball and soccer activities. This project is nearly complete and has been in use since April of this year.

In addition, the City maintains a tennis court behind the Fruitland Intermediate School and a basketball court in the center of the block formed by North Dulany Avenue, Leslie Street, Poplar Street and Theodore Street.

These wonderful facilities are a source of pride for our community and provide a much-needed service to our citizens. However, maintenance expense is high and we must rely on the financial support of the community, particularly those who most utilize our parks, if we are to continue. Please consider how you can support our efforts either by buying tickets to our fund-raisers or through tax-deductible cash donations.

Economic Development

The Fruitland Economic Development Commission, Inc. is a nine-member board of citizen volunteers who meet at least once a month to plan and advise on the City's industrial development. Currently, plans are underway to establish a hundred-acre industrial park on the southern edge of town between U.S. Route 13 and the By-Pass. Potential tenants of the park have been contacted and they await

our progress in establishing an attractive facility. The City Council employs a wide variety of tools including State grants and loan programs as well as local tax incentives as a means of luring new industry to town.

The Commission provides a seat for the City Council, Planning Commission and the Fruitland Chamber of Commerce, and the city manager serves as executive director.

By now you should know that Wal-Mart and Food Lion are coming to Fruitland. As a result of a lot of hard work by the City Council, the Economic Development Commission and City staff we are seeing a multi-million dollar renovation of the former Nichols store. Food Lion will occupy roughly one-half the original building with the balance soon to be under construction for additional stores and a major exterior face lift. There are three additional out-parcels on the property expected to be developed.

Wal-Mart will be located on North Fruitland Boulevard across from Accurate Optical and employ approximately 600 people with over \$40 million in sales expected the first year. Construction is due to start in August or September with a projected opening in the spring of 2000. This will be a Super Wal-Mart, open 24 hours, occupying over 154,000 square feet of floor area. The plans call for a second building housing up to 10 or 12 stores with three large out-parcels for further development.

We believe the Wal-Mart project will open many doors of opportunity to bring new business to Fruitland. It is not unreasonable to foresee the entire Cedar Lane area, from U.S. Route 13 to the By-Pass developed commercially over the next five years.

One thing we should know and be thankful for: The Wal-Mart project was "dead in the water" according to officials of Norfolk Southern Railroad, from whom a new rail crossing had been requested from Route 13 to the Wal-Mart property, north of Masten's. The railroad is trying to close 25 percent of its crossings nationwide and was in no way thinking of granting a new crossing for Fruitland--until Senator Paul Sarbanes stepped in. Due directly and only to Senator Sarbanes' influence and persuasion, Norfolk Southern reversed their decision and allowed the crossing. Wal-Mart was unwilling to come here without the crossing, so when you shop

there next year, as we all will, take a moment to think of Senator Sarbanes and thank him for making it all possible.

Web Page

Another accomplishment of the Fruitland Economic Development Commission is the new City Home Page or Web Site. This interesting stop on the Information Highway provides information on Fruitland's history, demographics, government (including meeting agendas and minutes), community events, tourist attractions and economic development opportunities. You may visit the site now on the Internet at

<http://ci.fruitland.md.us>

Final Thoughts

We at City Hall are proud to serve the citizens of Fruitland and we try to do our best to make your government responsive, efficient and progressive. Your thoughts, ideas, comments, and, yes, even complaints, are welcome because they all contribute to the success of our efforts. Fruitland is a family and we're all members of that family. By working together, with respect for one another, we will always assure that for living, working, shopping or just plain relaxing, Fruitland will remain "a shore pick". Best wishes from all of us to all of you.

Richard M. Pollitt, Jr.
City Manager